



Trails

Annual Trail Report - Fiscal Year 2011-12

Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

9th Edition

Release Date: July 1, 2012

Identify

100% of projects have been identified in the City's Greenprint or trail database

21.11 miles awaiting further development

Study

84% of projects have been or are currently being studied to determine a feasible alignment.

12.82 miles

Plan

74% of projects have been or are currently being master planned for future development.

34.15 miles

Design

43% of projects have been or are currently being designed, resulting in construction documents.

6.43 miles

Construct

43% of projects have been or are currently being constructed.

6.64 miles

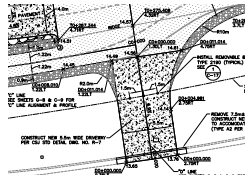
Open

37% of projects are open to the public.

54.97 miles*

38.23 (paved)

16.94 (interim)



Program Overview

The Trail Program's mission is to develop a 100-mile trail network comprised of 36 individual trail systems as defined by the Greenprint and consistent with the Mayor and City Council's Green Vision.

This ninth annual report updates residents, the Mayor and City Council, and other stakeholders on progress made over the past 12 months.

Readers of this report will note that many of the on-going projects result in master plans and construction documents. These projects do not provide immediate public access but place the City in an excellent position to competitively pursue grants that can lead to construction of additional trails.

* Baseline mileage was adjusted over the past year with a mileage corrections along several trail systems. Reaches of the 6.4 mile Lower Guadalupe River Trail will be closed temporarily during the year for paving.

Program Updates

Awards and Recognition

Four awards were secured over the past year for recent trail projects.

An *Award of Excellence* was received at the California Parks and Recreation Society Conference for the Coyote Creek Trail Master Plan (Montague Expressway to Highway 101). An *Award of Merit* was received at the California Trails and Greenways Conference for the same project.

An *Award of Excellence* was received at the California Parks and Recreation Society Conference for the Guadalupe River Trail (Woz Way to Virginia Street). An *Award of Merit* was received at the California Trails and Greenways Conference for the same project.

San José maintained its bronze status with the League of American Bicyclists as a bicycle friendly city in part due to the large and growing trail network.

Trail Count 2011

Volunteers from the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and others joined with City of San José staff to conduct the fifth annual count of trail users. The September 2011 count captured volumes at five count stations along the Guadalupe River (2 stations), Los Gatos Creek (2 stations), and the future Five Wounds Trail alignment. The data supports trail planning, competitive grant writing and supports the notion that trails are an integral part of our transportation system.



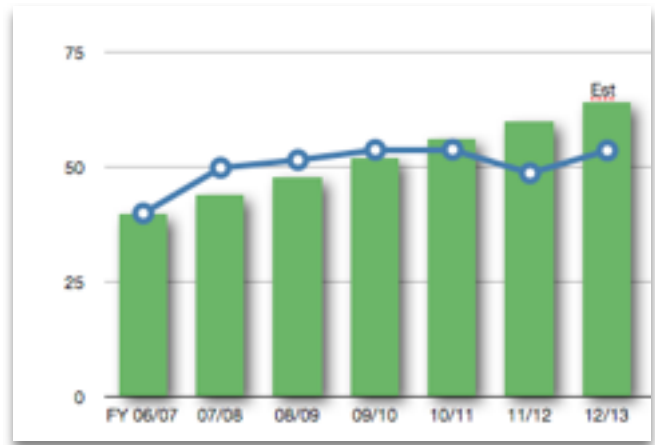
- A 5.7% increase was documented at the Guadalupe River / Coleman Avenue Count station - this station has recorded increased traffic each year of the count.
- The Los Gatos Creek count station at Auzerai Avenue saw a 54% increase during peak travel times. The 2010 count saw a 60% increase at this station.
- The Five Wounds neighborhood counted persons walking and biking along a former railway right of way. This corridor has been identified for future trail development. The data collected will be helpful in pursuing competitive grant funds.

See the “Reports” section of the website for more information about Trail Count.

Green Vision

The City’s Green Vision sets forth ten goals to make San José the epicenter of the clean technology economy. Goal 10 guides staff in delivery of 100 miles of interconnected trails by 2022.

During this past fiscal year, pavement of new trails lags the Green Vision annual target - the network’s 48.5 mile size is about 10 miles below the Green Vision pace. However, over 6 miles are in the design stage and



considered “shovel ready” once funding is secured through local and/or grant sources.

Innovation

Staff has pursued the following innovative practices over the past year:

Warm Mix Asphalt: The pavement is similar in character to standard roadway pavement but requires less energy to install and can make use of on-site recycled asphalt.

Smaller Construction Sign: The new sign is 1/3 the size of prior signs, includes all required information and provides a Quick Response code to guide Smart Phone users directly to the website for current project status. **Cost reduction of \$1,200 per sign.**



Composting Blankets: Storm water management regulations require that earthwork at construction sites be covered to prevent mud and silt from entering the storm water system. Use of composting blankets instead of plastic-bound fabric eliminates the need for costly removal.

Aluminum Bollards: A custom bollard has been developed that lighter weight due to its aluminum construction. Two handles are provided to ease removal. The units are more costly than typical steel units, but reduce the potential for employee injuries because of a 30 lb. weight reduction. The use of bollards is also now considered only when vehicle trespassing is known to occur so fewer installations are anticipated in the future.

Grant Writing

Staff utilizes a Council-approved prioritization process to rank and align projects with grant funding opportunities. This approach ensures that the existing trail systems continue to expand in a logical manner and that the City targets grant applications in the most strategic manner. Over the past year, staff wrote and submitted 3 grant applications seeking nearly \$18M in funding. Several grants were awarded from submissions during the prior fiscal year (2010-11). The following table reports on all grant writing activity during the past 12 months.

Project	Grant / Amount	Status
Bay Trail Reach 9/9B	\$17,000,000	Declined
Bay Trail Reach 9 Interpretive Elements	\$240,000	Declined
Three Creeks Trail (Interim and Trestle)	\$450,000	Awarded
Coyote Creek Trail (237-Tasman)	\$350,000	Awarded
Lower Silver Creek (Alum Rock to 680)	\$350,000	Awarded
Edenvale Pedestrian Bridge	\$250,000	Declined
Three Creeks Trail	\$300,000	Declined
Bay Trail Under-Crossings	\$1,900,000	Declined
Tasman Drive Under-Crossing	\$165,000	Declined
Coyote Creek Trail (237-Tasman)	\$724,000	Declined
Bay Trail Reach 9/9B	\$15,900,000	Declined
Thompson Creek (Tully - Quimby)	\$350,000	Declined

Staff was successful in securing a grant deadline extension for the Tasman Drive Under-Crossing project so that its construction may proceed immediately after completion of the Lower Guadalupe River Trail project.

Social Networking

San Jose Trails have been on Twitter ("SanJoseTrails") since March 2010. Over 500 "Tweets" have been posted to

provide project updates, upcoming trail closures, and other news items. There are nearly 200 followers.

Project Updates

Bay Trail Reach 9/9B - Alviso Slough, near Gold Street

A federal environmental document (NEPA) for a 540 foot pedestrian bridge, three under-crossing structures and a 1.1 mile gap closure.



Design work on the 1.1 mile trail gap closure is proceeding with plans currently at a 35% stage. The project will include a gateway element near its connection to the Highway 237 Bikeway and Bay Trail. An interpretive station be developed near an elevated point for views of the bay and surrounding landscape.

Coyote Creek - Montague Expressway to Highway 101

Based on a master plan approved by the City Council in FY 2010-11, an federally-compliant environmental document has been completed.

The resulting documentation will support efforts to secure funds for construction. Development of the 9-mile trail extension will require five pedestrian bridges and 11 under-crossings.

Doerr Parkway - Curtner Avenue to Comstock Avenue

The short 500' project will landscape a utility corridor so that it can support a walking route through the neighborhood and provide better access between Doerr Park and a bus stop on Curtner. The park and this project are named in honor of former Mayor Robert Doerr (1958) - interpretive signage will be included as part of the project based on interviews now underway with Mr. Doerr. Two community meetings were conducted and a refined trail alignment was developed. Staff is currently preparing construction drawings and funding is in place for construction during Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Guadalupe Creek Trail - Almaden Exp. Pedestrian Bridge

Preliminary design and environmental documents were completed for a previously studied pedestrian bridge structure that would someday span across the expressway, offering off-street access between Guadalupe Creek and Guadalupe River Trails.

Highway 237 Bikeway - Tasman Drive to Coyote Creek

Construction of the project commenced in January. Reopening of the trail is expected in June. The project paved a deteriorated maintenance road. The 0.8 mile project included the south bay's first use of warm-mix asphalt paving, reflective striping, compost blankets and was the first deployment of a smaller and less costly construction sign. As the trail reopens, it will become the first segment of trail in San Jose to be designated as part of the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic National Trail.

**Lower Guadalupe River - Alviso to Highway 880**

Staff secured all necessary permits for construction, including access agreements from the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Francisco PUC. Authorization to proceed with construction was secured from Caltrans.

Construction of the 6.4 mile trail commenced on June 18 and is anticipated to require 10 months for completion. Construction will occur over three phases in order to minimize the duration of closure along segments of the trail.

A public outreach campaign includes monthly reports to local media, advocacy groups and to followers on Twitter (SanJoseTrails). A construction hotline is advertised on the construction signs to respond to community concerns.

Lower Guadalupe River - Tasman Under-Crossing

Grant funding was secured several years ago to elevate the under-crossing in order avoid routine flooding from tidal waters and seasonal rains. In order to expedite construction of the Lower Guadalupe River Trail (880 to Gold Street), the under-crossing project was put on hold. A grant extension was secured in May 2012 so that construction may commence immediately after paving of the Lower Guadalupe River Trail and limit a trail closure solely to the under-crossing site.

Los Gatos Creek Trail - San Carlos Street Under-crossing

Funding was secured for the design, environmental clearance and engineering work for an under-crossing structure beneath San Carlos Street and the actively railway bridge. A Request for Qualifications was issued

and staff is currently reviewing four proposals. Design work is expected to start early in Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Lower Silver Creek Trail - Alum Rock to Hwy 680

Plans are developed to the 95% stage and a final review is on-going. Staff is coordinating with permitting agencies to obtain authority to proceed. Funding for construction is sourced from the City's budget and a grant secured during the year. Construction will begin in Fiscal Year 2012-13. The project will pave an existing gravel maintenance road, and include two ramp systems to provide access for the Dobern Avenue neighborhood (north-west of Highway 680).

Lower Silver Creek Trail - Dobern Bridge to Story Road

Plans are developed to the 35% stage. The project will improve an existing by narrow path through Capitol Park, and visually distinguish the trail to better link to the existing reaches of the trail system. Construction is expected to get underway in Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Penitencia Creek Trail - Alum Rock Park to Noble Avenue

Design work got underway to define a trail alignment that meanders near and along the roadway. A \$300,000 grant from the *Santa Clara Valley Water District* and a \$200,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy have been secured for construction of the trail between Noble Avenue and Dorel Drive.

Thompson Creek - Tully Avenue to Quimby Road

An interim trail opened along the creek in June 2008. Construction documents are being prepared to 95% stage for a paved trail, with gateway elements leading to the sunny trail corridor. The project developed in partnership with the *Santa Clara Valley Water District*, with joint use of lands and technical assistance. Grant and City funding support construction during Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Three Creeks Trail - Los Gatos Creek to Coyote Creek

Site clean-up and property acquisition work was completed for parcels between Lonus Street and Minnesota Avenue (western alignment). This accounts for 7.5 acres and 0.9 mile of future trail through the Willow Glen Area.

Staff continues to work with Save Our Trails and granting agencies to investigate resources available to acquire parcels from Highway 87 and Coyote Creek. The adopted FY12/13 Budget will provide funds to master plan the western alignment of the trail system. A feasibility study is underway to determine the structural

repairs or replacement strategy for the railway trestle that spans Los Gatos Creek.

Partners

Development of trails can only occur through partnerships with agencies, community groups and hardworking individuals. Many of the projects in this report would not be possible without the support of:

- City of San José City Council
- Santa Clara Valley Water District - Board of Directors and Staff
- Staff from City of San José Departments and Offices
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- County of Santa Clara
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- State of California
- Association of Bay Area Governments
- San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Save Our Trails (community organization)
- Five Wounds Neighborhood / Communiversity
- California Coastal Conservancy
- Many residents, bike groups and trail advocates who encourage and support expansion of the trail network.



San José's Trail Program

Mission: Complete a 100-mile network of trail systems to enhance, strengthen and connect neighborhoods



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